

Appl. No. 09/540,947

Docket No. MIT-057/MS

REMARKS

The above-identified patent application has been amended and Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and again examine the claims.

In accordance with the revised provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.121(c) as enacted on July 30, 2003, a marked up version of the amended claims is provided above.

Claims 1-20, 22 and 52 are pending in the application. Claims 11 – 19 are objected ~~but~~ the Examiner indicated that these claims would be allowable if re-written in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1-10, 22 and ~~32~~ are rejected. Claims 2-11, 22 and 52 are amended herein. Claim 1 is cancelled herein without prejudice. Claims 6, 21 and 23-51 have previously been cancelled.

The Examiner rejects Claims 1-5, 7-10, 20, 22 and 52 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hussein et al (IEEE article describing the CAIRO system herein after 1995 Hussein) in view of Kelly et al (IEEE article entitled: "A Facilitator's General Model for Managing Socio-Emotional Issues in Group Support Systems Meeting Environments," herein after Kelly).

Applicants have cancelled Claim 1 and thus the rejection thereof is now moot and thus will not be discussed.

Claim 11 has been re-written in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims and as such which has been indicated by the Examiner as being allowable.

Claim 2-5, 7-10, 20, 22 and 52 have all been amended to depend either directly or indirectly from Thus, Claims 2-5, 7-10, 20, 22 and 52 are now also believed to be allowable.

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In the Office Action the Examiner objected to Claims 11 – 19 but indicated that these claims would be allowable if re-written in independent form including the limitations of the ~~base~~ claim and any intervening claims. As mentioned above, Applicants have re-written Claim 11 in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims and ~~as~~ such which has been indicated by the Examiner as being allowable and thus Applicants submit that these claims are now in condition for allowance.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that Claims 2-5, 7-20, 22, 52 and the entire case are in condition for allowance and should be sent to issue and such action is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigning attorney if there are any questions regarding this Response or this application.

The Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 500845.

Dated: 9 MAR 05

Respectfully submitted,

DALY, CROWLEY, MOFFORD & DURKEE, LLP

By: 

Christopher S. Daly

Reg. No. 37,303

Attorney for Applicant(s)

275 Turnpike Street, Suite 101

Canton, MA 02021-2354

Tel.: (781) 401-9988, ext. 11

Fax: (781) 401-9966

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